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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [AMGT](#) [OTRA](#) [KS](#)  
SUBJECT: CLEARANCE FOR EAP DAS CHRISTENSEN'S TRAVEL TO KOREA

REF: STATE 6116

11. (U) Embassy Seoul warmly welcomes and grants country clearance for the January 25-28, 2007 official visit to Seoul by EAP Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas J. Christensen.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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12. (U) Control officer for the visit is Political Officer Andrew Bennett.

Office telephone: (82)(2) 397-4372  
Embassy operator: (82)(2) 397-4114 then press "0"  
Cell phone: (82)(10) 6480-4372  
Fax number: (82)(2) 733-4791  
Unclassified email: bennettao@state.gov

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SIPTNet email: bennettao@state.sgov.gov

#### LODGING

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13. (U) Embassy has reserved four rooms at the Lotte Hotel for the nights of January 25-27, 2007 at per diem rates. The reservation confirmation number is 10000880. The hotel phone number is (82-2) 771-1000. Breakfast and Club Floor access is included in the rate. Cancellation policy is 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid one-night penalty.

#### TRAVELERS NOTE

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14. (U) All official travelers must possess a Korean visa to enter the country. Travelers may contact the nearest Korean consulate/embassy to obtain a visa.

15. (U) An airport tax of KRW27,000 (approximately USD27) is usually included in the cost of the ticket. Upon departure, diplomatic passport holders may claim reimbursement at the tax refund center located near the duty-free shops beyond the security check area.

#### TRANSPORTATION

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16. (U) DAS Christensen will be met at the airport by an Embassy representative.

#### CELL PHONES

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17. (U) Please be advised that not all cell phones work in Korea. Travelers must first check with their service provider. Blackberrys are likewise unusable in Korea.

THREAT ADVISORY

18. (U) Americans in Seoul are subject to worldwide threat from international terrorists, although we have no information to suggest any specific terrorists threats directed at Americans here. Political demonstrations occur frequently in Seoul, and are occasionally anti-American. Americans can minimize personal risk by staying away from demonstrations and by avoiding confrontation or altercations with protesters. While relatively infrequent by U.S. standards, street crime does occur. Most reported crimes involve pickpocketing in tourist areas and are predominantly non-violent in nature. The security precautions a person would take in any large city are appropriate throughout South Korea. Police are considered capable and well trained. Seoul metropolitan authorities staff English-speaking personnel 24 hours daily to handle local emergencies. Telephone numbers are as follows: 112 police emergency, 119 fire & ambulance..

19. (SBU) One must assume that hotel rooms, telephones, cellular phones, and fax machines may be monitored. Official travelers should ensure that hard-copy and electronic sensitive information is not left in hotel rooms. As a precautionary measure, visitors are advised NOT to discuss sensitive or classified information in uncontrolled areas. Computers, to include laptops and PDAs, are NOT allowed in the Embassy except with prior clearance/permission from the RSO office.

OTHER INFO

10. (U) For comprehensive information on South and North Korean politics and economies, please reference the Embassy's new classified website at <http://www.state.sgov.gov>.  
STANTON